



## HABITAT HUNT With GPS

### 5-6 Grade

A habitat is the area in which a living organism finds those things necessary for life: food, water, shelter, and space. Habitats at Devils Tower National Monument include prairie, streamside (riparian), and woodland. Some animals live in the area at the edge or in between two habitats in the area known as the *ecotone* or transition zone.

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will evaluate the habitats available to plants and animals

**PRE-SITE ACTIVITY:** Students will need to know how to use a GPS

**STRANDS:** science study; recreation skills

**DURATION:** approximately 30 minutes

**LOCATION:** Joyner Ridge Trail (BE SURE TO REMAIN ON THE TRAIL)

**VOCABULARY:** adaptations, ecotone, habitat, riparian, deciduous, Global Positioning System (GPS)

**MATERIALS:**

- Devils Tower America's First National Monument - DVD (47 minute park film) This DVD can be sent on loan to the teacher upon request prior to the class visit.
- student field journal
- map of the monument
- pencil
- clipboard
- GPS

**SET-UP:** This activity may be done individually or in teams.

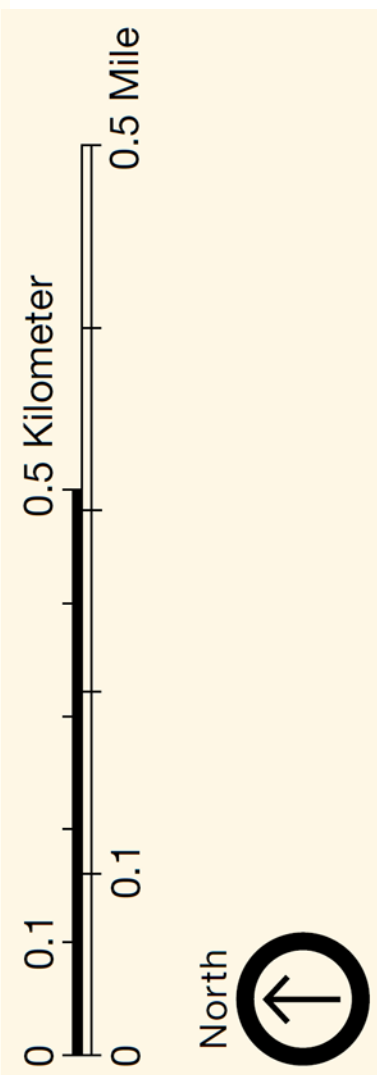
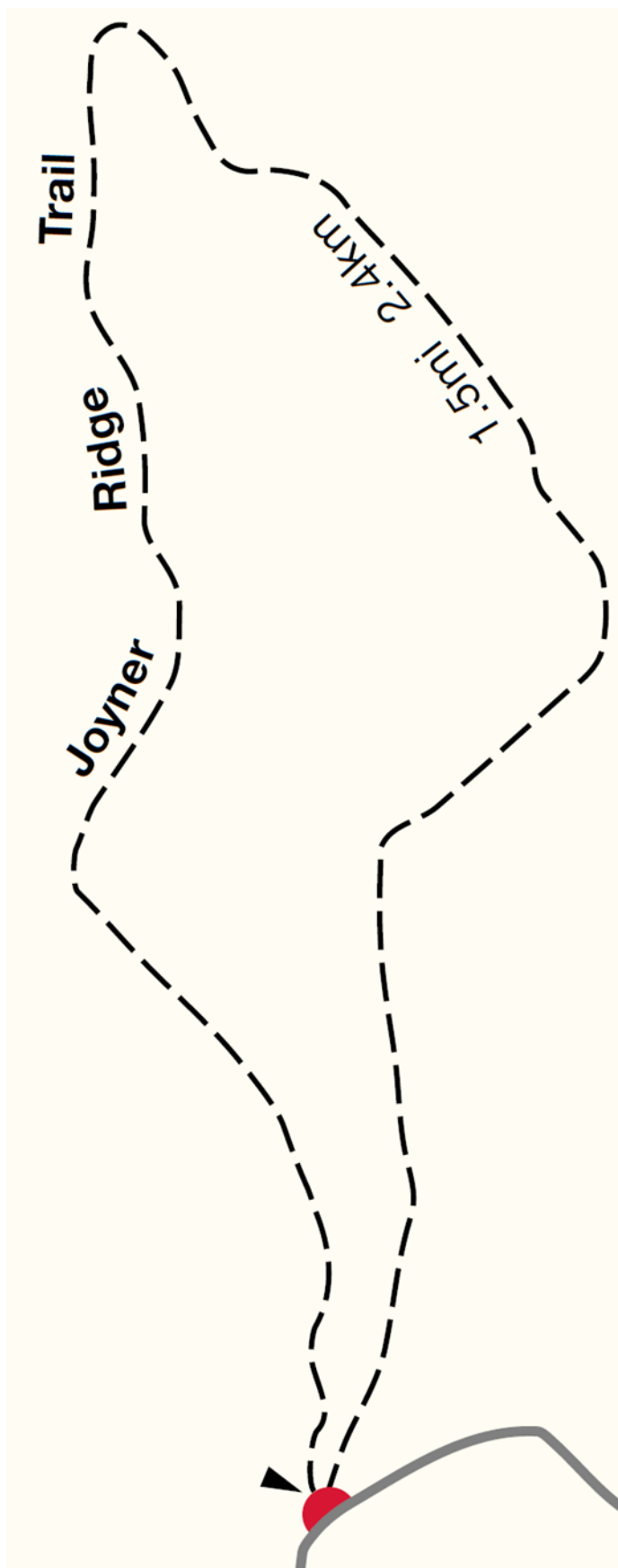
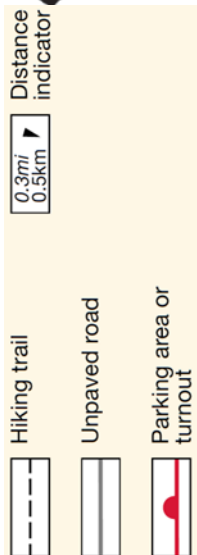
**PROCEDURE:** **Pre visit-** Tell students they are going on a "Habitat Hunt" - a special type of hike. Students will be exploring various habitats to see if they have all the requirements to be "good" habitats. Students should look at each habitat to see if it provides food, shelter, water, and space then discuss what kinds of plants and animals might live there. If basic requirements are missing, students should determine if there is a way to get the missing components somewhere else or what adaptations can be made (eg. prairie dogs get the water they need from the plants they eat).

Participants will hike to a habitat (prairie, and/ or woodland (pine, deciduous). On the trail map, students will use prominent landmarks and GPS to mark the location of the ecotone and habitats being studied. Students will complete the worksheet answering the questions as they apply to the habitats being studied. Other areas in the Monument may be considered such as the picnic/campground area, and the prairie dog town.

**FOLLOW-UP:** As a group, discuss the habitat(s) studied. See if students can identify other facts about the site; elevation compared to the Tower's base or the river, distance to a specified landmark, similarities/differences between sites, etc.



# TRAIL MAP





**FOLLOW-UP: Questions for review and discussion**

1. List two habitats found on the trail
2. List three animals that may be found in each habitat
  - Were any animals observed? What kinds and how many of each?
  - Were signs of animals seen? What are they?
  - Does the area support the animals found in each habitat?
3. What are some different plants found in each habitat?
4. Do the different plants determine what animals might live in each habitat?
5. Are the transition zones clearly visible?
6. Considering all aspects of the area and habitats being studied, discuss if any of the following animals could be supported here (some may have been observed on the hike or signs may have been seen);
  - Deer?
  - Elk?
  - Porcupine?
  - Bear?
  - Mountain Lion?
  - Turkey?
  - Squirrel?



### Other Resources:

These resources are available through Devils Tower National History Association (DTNHA), a not-for profit organization established to support education and research efforts at Devils Tower National Monument. **DTNHA**

*Who Pooped in the Black Hills?* ISBN#: 1-56037-387-3 978-1-56037-387-2

*Critters of Wyoming* ISBN#: 978-1-885061-38-6 1-885061-38-2

*Animal Tracks* ISBN# 13 978-1-58355-072-4

*Wildlife at Devils Tower National Monument* ISBN# 13 978-1-58355-667-2

*Devils Tower National Monument Checklist* DETO Natural Resources

*Devils Tower, America's First National* DTNHA DVD

*Monument*

*National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States*

*USGS Bird Checklists for Devils Tower* [http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/che\\_kbird/r6/devil.htm](http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/che_kbird/r6/devil.htm)

Teachers participating in a ranger-led Devils Tower National Monument Education Outreach Program receive a 15% discount on purchases from DTNHA. Discount is valid from the time a program is scheduled to one month after the program. Please provide name, school, and discount code Education Discount when you place your order at <http://www.devilstowernha.org>.